

OPINION 1563

Heliases ternatensis Bleeker, 1856 (currently *Chromis ternatensis*; Osteichthyes, Perciformes): specific name conserved, and *Chromis viridis* (Cuvier, 1830): name adopted for the fish formerly known as *C. caerulea* (Cuvier, 1830)

Ruling

(1) Under the plenary powers the following specific names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy:

- (a) *caeruleus* Cuvier, 1830 as published in the binomen *Heliases caeruleus*;
- (b) *lepisurus* Cuvier, 1830 as published in the binomen *Heliases lepisurus*;
- (c) *frenatus* Cuvier, 1830 as published in the binomen *Heliases frenatus*.

(2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *ternatensis* Bleeker, 1856, as published in the binomen *Heliases ternatensis*;
- (b) *viridis* Cuvier, 1830, as published in the binomen *Pomacentrus viridis*, and as interpreted by the lectotype designated by Randall, Bouchet & Desoutter (1985).

(3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology:

- (a) *caeruleus* Cuvier, 1830, as published in the binomen *Heliases caeruleus* and as suppressed in (1) (a) above;
- (b) *lepisurus* Cuvier, 1830, as published in the binomen *Heliases lepisurus* and as suppressed in (1) (b) above;
- (c) *frenatus* Cuvier, 1830, as published in the binomen *Heliases frenatus* and as suppressed in (1) (c) above.

History of Case 2516

An application for the conservation of *Helisaes ternatensis* Bleeker, 1856 and the adoption of the name *Chromis viridis* (Cuvier, 1830) for the fish commonly called *C. caerulea* (Cuvier, 1830) was received from Dr J. E. Randall (*Bishop Museum, Hawaii, U.S.A.*) and Drs M.-L. Bauchot & M. Desoutter (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France*) on 29 April 1985. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 44: 248–250 (December 1987). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals. It was suggested by the Secretariat that the specimen in Mertens' 'belle figure' (see BZN 44: 248, para. 2), which is formally a syntype of the nominal species *Heliases caeruleus* Cuvier, 1830, could be designated the lectotype of that species, and that *caeruleus* could then, by a first reviser action, be given precedence over *Pomacentrus viridis*. However, Dr J. E. Randall replied that the 'belle figure', like Mertens' painting of a specimen from Guam (which has the reference no. MS 490 VB 9 and not as given in para. 8 of the application) could be of *C. atripectoralis* Welander & Schultz, 1951, and does not necessarily represent *caerulea* auct. (= *viridis* Cuvier).

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1989 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 44: 249–250. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1989 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 16: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Corliss, Halvorsen, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen, Martins de Souza, Nielsen, Ride, Savage, Schuster, Uéno, Willink

Negative votes — 4: Cogger, Hahn, Mroczkowski and Thompson.

No vote was received from Heppell. Starobogatov and Trjapitzin were on leave of absence.

Dupuis abstained. Mroczkowski considered it would have been better to have designated the lectotype of *P. viridis* as the neotype of *H. caeruleus*, and then ruled that *caeruleus* be given precedence over *viridis*. Hahn would have also preferred to have a neotype designated for *caeruleus* (thereby also solving the *ternatensis* difficulty), whereas Cogger would have used one of the synonyms *lepisurus* or *frenatus* for the blue-green damselfish, since these names did not have the ambiguous background of *caeruleus*.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on an Official List and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

caeruleus, Heliases, Cuvier, 1830, *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons*, vol. 5, p. 497.

frenatus, Heliases, Cuvier, 1830, *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons*, vol. 5, p. 498.

lepisurus, Heliases, Cuvier, 1830, *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons*, vol. 5, p. 498.

ternatensis, Heliases, Bleeker, 1856, *Natuurkundig Tijdschrift voor Nederlandsch-Indië*, 10: 377.

viridis, Pomacentrus, Cuvier, 1830, *Histoire Naturelle des Poissons*, vol. 5, p. 420.